

Samuel M. Ralston of Indiana

Samuel M. Ralston has been nominated as the democratic candidate for governor of Indiana. In 1896 he was the democratic candidate for secretary of state and made an earnest fight for the democratic ticket in that year. He is the only democrat in Indiana to receive the nomination for governor by acclamation since 1872 when Thomas A. Hendricks was given that honor.

The democrats of Indiana have honored themselves in honoring Ralston and the people of that state will make no mistake if they elect him by a rousing majority. Following are extracts of the speech delivered to the convention by Mr. Ralston:

"I accept the nomination you have tendered me for governor of Indiana, keenly appreciative of the gracious honor it brings and profoundly impressed with the burden it imposes. It is no mean distinction for a man to have the respect and confidence of his home community. This alone puts him under obligation to walk humbly and justly among those with whom his lot is cast. But when his fellow citizens choose him to represent them in a free government his obligation runs to posterity and he is morally bound to consecrate to the public service the best he has of heart and brain—his ripest citizenship. Therefore, at the bar of your conscience in the presence of these thousands of my countrymen, I swear allegiance to the conception of official duty.

"I am an optimist. I recognize, however, that life has its smooth ways and its rough ways. It has its high places and its valleys—its sunshine and its clouds—its hopes and its fears. But in the swing of the world there is constant advancement. We have proven our ability for self-government in this country by refusing to forget that in their struggles to improve their condition the masses bend beneath their load and by insisting that in this republic the humblest and the mightiest shall stand upon an equality before the law.

"The maintenance of equality among men, in so far as government has any relation thereto, makes life secure, protects property rights and guarantees to labor the bread it earns. But whenever this guarantee to labor is not kept, the continued advocacy of the equality of men becomes a farce and a source of discontent. The bread of the masses marks the line of separation between democracy and plutocracy. Democracy as we have it with its limitations will triumph in this country as long as it safeguards the possessions of the rich and the poor, and refuses to pervert the functions of government to the injury of the laborer and the producer.

"Personally I believe in obedience to law. In this I do not differ from the great majority of my countrymen. As a state, Indiana stands for law and order, and I want no man to support me for the great office I am seeking under the delusion that in the event of my success I shall stand for loose morals and the non-enforcement of the law. The penal laws of the state should either be enforced or repealed. If elected it will not be my duty to make laws nor to interpret the law except for my own official guidance, but I will have to take an oath to 'take care that the laws be faithfully executed,' and that oath I will respect.

"The burdens of government are heavy. The high cost of living and the increasing demands to meet the requirements of the state admonish those entrusted with the administration of state affairs of the necessity of pursuing an economical policy.

While our state institutions should not be dealt with in a parsimonious manner, it must not be forgotten that the money required to maintain them comes from the people. Figuratively speaking, it represents their heart-beats and nerve force—a part of their lives—and should not be expended with the indifference of the spendthrift.

"Whenever it can be done without injury to the public service the number of employes in any department of state should be kept at the minimum, having due regard for the public service, and no employe should be allowed to hold a place on the pay roll of the state who does not meet the requirements of his position. Economy and efficiency in public office are basic principles of the democratic party, and the taxpayer has the right to demand that the policy of our party, when in control of the state, shall square with these principles.

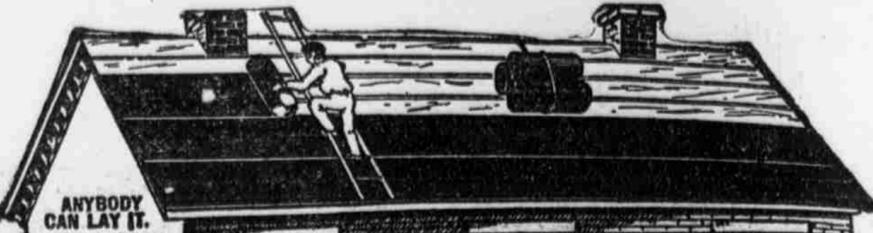
"The people of this state are generous. They are humane. They prefer reformation to conviction. They would rather forgive than condemn. They never demand vindictive justice. Because of these characteristics possessed by them in so marked a degree they have provided for the unfortunate of our citizenship benevolent, reformatory and penal institutions. These institutions are the objects of public affection. They are too sacred to be treated as party plunder, and that party will incur public condemnation that stakes them as a prize in a political contest.

"Chosen as I have been to head my party's ticket in the campaign of 1912, I am thereby licensed to ask for your co-operation. I must have not only your assistance but also the help of those citizens who indorse the policies for which our party stands. Battles are not won by those who are favored with a position at the front, but by the rank and file and those on picket duty.

"To our democratic friends who are at home I send greetings through you. Tell them I shall not shirk any responsibility that may be mine to assume and that I want their sympathy and support in the campaign upon which we are entering. Say to them that like them I am in love with my party because of its conception of government and am willing to make whatever sacrifice in time and labor necessary to enable it to win. You may tell them that I am a party man but like them I put Americanism before partisanship. Like them I recognize Thomas Jefferson as the father of our party and his teachings as the surest safeguard of our republican institutions. Like them I believe with them that 'it is indeed of little consequence who governs us, if they sincerely and zealously cherish the principles of union and republicanism.' Like them I revere his memory because his giant mind broke down the traditions of the ages and maintained that the people did not have to be protected against themselves by the brains and the money of the so-called better class. Like them I hail him as democracy's patron saint and with the historian proclaim, 'He wrote his name where all nations should behold it and all time should not efface it.'

"I would, indeed, be lacking in the common amenities of life if I did not acknowledge in a public manner my indebtedness to those friends—men and women—who gave my candidacy their earnest and active support. Their faith in me never weakened. Their interest in me grew greater as the contest at times grew in severity. They sacrificed liberally for me, and their loyalty has made life to me sweeter and better;

through their devotion I see in friendship a new significance, and out of an overflowing heart I pay them the tribute of my affections."



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